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Japan

Solid Wood Products

Domestic Glulam Production Explodes to Meet Demand

2004

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Report Highlights:

Total Japanese distribution in 2003, including domestic production and imports, was a record 2,104,100 cubic meters (m3). Japanese production of both structural and non-structural laminated wood products was a record 1,407,300 m3, up 20% from the previous year, with structural glulam production was up 26%.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Tokyo [JA1]
[JA]

Stricter building requirements for residential construction under the Building Standards Law and a 10-year warranty on all new homes have increased the demand for stable wood products, especially structural laminated wood products. Increased demand has increased the supply of domestic production, as well as imports.

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Japanese production of both structural and non-structural laminated wood products was a record 1,407,300 cubic meters, up 20% from the previous year.

Structural glulam production was up 26%, including beams, joists and posts load-bearing application in for both residential and commercial construction accounted for 85% of the total volume.

Non-structural glulam production, used in more traditional *Tatami-rooms*, was down 6%, continuing a 3-year decline.

Japanese imports of glulam products were 696,800 cubic meters in 2003, up 11.8% from the previous year and up 28.5% from 2000. For more detail on glulam imports see JA4027.

The following are some of the key background factors, cited as reasons for the phenomenal growth of the structural glulam market.

- 1) The 10-year warranty requirement for newly built houses imposed by Japanese building codes.
- 2) The need for highly engineered lumber in the rapidly growing pre-cut housing market.
- 3) Trend in the Japanese home building industry for expanded uses of the engineered wood products for better structural and cost-efficient performances of new homes to be built, in the continuing effort to overcome issues of skilled construction labor shortage and increasingly short and costly availability of solid sawn lumber on the market with the right wood species and product specifications.

Laminated Wood Production in Japan by Year								
Year	2000		2001		2002		2003	
Usage	Volume (000m ³)	% Change	Volume (000m ³)	% Change	Volume (000m ³)	% Change	Volume (000m ³)	% Change
Structural	622.3	+ 28.7	781.6	+ 25.6	945.7	+ 21.0	1,190.7	+ 25.9
Non-Structural	269.7	- 4.6	248.5	- 7.9	227.1	- 8.6	216.6	- 4.6
Total	892.0	+ 16.4	1,030.1	+ 15.5	1,172.8	+ 13.9	1,407.3	+ 20.0

(Source: Japan Laminated Wood Industry Association)

Note: % change represents a change over the previous year.

End of Report.